

Remarks

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the rejection of the claims in view of the above amendments and the remarks set forth below. Claims 1, 5-11, 15-18 and 20 remain in the application. Claims 2-4, 12-14 and 19 are cancelled. Claims 1, 5-7, 11, 15-18 and 20 are amended and claims 8-10 remain unchanged. Claims 21-29 are new.

In the office action, original claims 4, 7, 14, 17, 19 and 20 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but were deemed to be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claims 1, 11 and 18 are amended, and claims 21-29 are added to overcome the objection. More specifically:

Base claim 1 is amended to include the limitations of claims 3 and 4.

Base claim 11 is amended to include the limitations of claims 13 and 14.

Base claim 18 is amended to include the limitations of claim 19.

New claim 21 includes the limitations of claims 3, 6, 7 and base claim 1.

New claim 22 includes the limitations of claims 13, 16, 17 and base claim 11.

New claim 23 corresponds to new claim 22 in method form.

New claim 24 has limitations similar to amended claim 1.

New claim 25 has limitations similar to amended claim 11.

New claim 26 has limitations similar to amended claim 18.

New claim 27 has limitations similar to new claim 21.

New claim 28 has limitations similar to new claim 22.

New claim 29 has limitations similar to new claim 23.

Having fully addressed the Examiner's rejections it is believed that, in view of the preceding remarks, this application stands in condition for allowance. Accordingly then, reconsideration and allowance are respectfully solicited. If, however, the Examiner is of the opinion that such action cannot be taken, the Examiner is invited to contact the applicants'

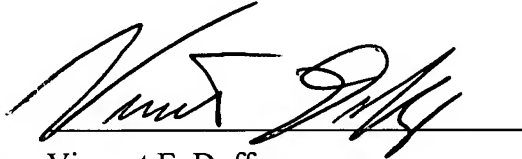
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attorney at (818) 260-3727, so that a mutually convenient date and time for a telephonic interview may be scheduled.

No fees, other than the fees for a two-month extension of time, adding nine independent claims in excess of three and two claims in excess of twenty total claims, are believed due. However, if a fee is due, please charge the additional fee to Deposit Account 07-0832.

Respectfully submitted,



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Patent Operations

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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this amendment is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as First Class Mail, postage prepaid, in an envelope addressed to the Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on:

6/4/07
date



Vincent E. Duffy